

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A system for creating a custom fit, three-dimensional artificial fingernail wherein a portion of the artificial fingernail at least semi-rigidly retains a shape that substantially matches a top surface of a natural fingernail, the system comprising:

a non-contact measuring system operably measuring a three-dimensional topography of a natural fingernail, the measuring system comprising a light source and a camera;

design system for designing the three-dimensional shape of the artificial fingernail by offering the selection of parameters comprising length, and three-dimensional style, of the artificial fingernail;

calculation module within the design system for calculating a three-dimensional design of the artificial fingernail from the three-dimensional topography of the natural fingernail and the selected parameters; and

a machining device operably creating the artificial fingernail using the three-dimensional design of the artificial fingernail, the artificial fingernail at least semi-rigidly retaining a shape that substantially matches ~~[[a]]~~ the top surface of ~~[[a]]~~ the natural fingernail.

2. (Previously submitted) The system of claim 1 wherein the light source projects a pattern on the natural fingernail, the camera records a two-dimensional grid image of the natural fingernail and the design system calculates x, y, and z coordinates of the natural fingernail topography.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the light source is a laser, and the non-contact measuring system scans the natural fingernail and calculates the three-dimensional topography of the natural fingernail.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the non-contact measuring system converts the three-dimensional topography of the natural fingernail into a machine code for the machining device.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the machining device is a computer numerical control device for receiving machine data for milling a material into the artificial fingernail.

7 - 18 (Cancelled)

19. (Previously submitted) A process for custom designing an artificial fingernail for use with a natural fingernail, the process comprising the steps of:

calculating x, y, and z data points of the natural fingernail with a non-contact measuring system;

selecting parameters for the artificial fingernail, wherein the parameters selected comprise length, and style;

calculating a three-dimensional shape of the artificial fingernail from the x, y, and z data points of the natural fingernail and the parameters for the artificial fingernail; and

machining the artificial fingernail wherein the artificial fingernail custom fits the natural fingernail.

20. (Original) The process of claim 19 further comprising the step of: converting the three-dimensional shape of the artificial fingernail into a machine data for the machining of the artificial fingernail.

21. (Original) The process of claim 20 wherein the machine data are machine codes.

22. (Original) The process of claim 19 further comprising the step of: displaying the three-dimensional shape of the artificial fingernail before the step of machining the artificial fingernail.

23. (Previously submitted) A computer implemented process for designing custom artificial fingernails for fitting a natural fingernail based on an optical image of the natural fingernail, the process comprising the step of:

receiving from an optical imaging device image data defining a surface of a finger comprising a surface of a natural fingernail;

extracting from the image data a portion of image data that defines x, y, and z data points of the surface of the natural fingernail;

selecting a design for the artificial fingernail;

creating a three-dimensional data structure for the artificial fingernail wherein the data structure comprises the x, y, and z data points that defines the surface of the natural fingernail and the design for the artificial fingernail; and

converting the three-dimensional data structure into machine data for cutting the artificial fingernail out of a material.

24. (Original) The process of claim 23 wherein the image data defines a surface of a plurality of fingers comprising a plurality of surfaces of natural fingernails.

25. (Original) The process of claim 23 wherein the step of selecting a design for the artificial fingernail further comprises the steps of:

selecting a length of the artificial fingernail;

selecting a thickness of the artificial fingernail; and

selecting a style of the artificial fingernail.

26. (Original) The process of claim 23 wherein the step of creating a three-dimensional data structure further comprises the steps of:

defining a top surface of the artificial fingernail wherein a portion of the top surface corresponds to the boundary of the surface of the natural fingernail;

defining a length of the artificial fingernail;

defining a thickness of the artificial fingernail; and

defining a style of the artificial fingernail.

27. (Original) The process of claim 23 wherein the three-dimensional data structure is converted into machine codes readable by a computer numerically controlled device for cutting the artificial fingernail out of the material.

28. (Original) The process of claim 23 wherein the machine data are machine codes suitable for a computer numerically controlled machine.

29. (Previously presented) A computer implemented process for designing custom three-dimensional artificial fingernails for fitting natural fingernails based on an optical image of the natural fingernails, the process comprising the step of:

receiving from an optical imaging device image data defining a surface of a plurality of fingers comprising a surface of a plurality of natural fingernails;

extracting from the image data portions of image data that define the surfaces of the plurality of natural fingernails;

selecting at least one design for a plurality of artificial fingernails;

creating a plurality of three-dimensional data structures one for each of the plurality of artificial fingernails wherein each data structure comprises the data that defines one of the surfaces of each of the plurality of natural fingernails and the design for the artificial fingernail; and

converting the three-dimensional data structures into machine data for cutting the plurality of artificial fingernails out of a material.

30. (Original) The computer implemented process of claim 29 wherein the machine data are machine codes suitable for a computer numerically control machine.

31. (Previously presented) An artificial fingernail manufactured by the system of claim 1.

32. (Cancelled)